



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7670 | FAX (517) 373.5958

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Contact: Scott Ray
517-373-7670

Senator commemorates 50th anniversary of Milo Radulovich case

Lansing – In a ceremony held Thursday on the Senate floor, Sen. Alan Sanborn (R-Richmond) honored the 50th anniversary of the historic Milo Radulovich case. Sanborn's father, Judge Kenneth Sanborn, and Milo Radulovich were on hand for the ceremony.

In 1953, at the height of McCarthyism, the U.S. Air Force attempted to remove Radulovich, an Air Force Reserve lieutenant, from the military for associating with his allegedly subversive father and sister. He was faced with the option of resigning "in lieu of elimination from the service" or requesting a hearing. Radulovich chose to fight the charges. His decision would ultimately prove to be the first loosening of Sen. Joe McCarthy's stranglehold on the country.

Until Sanborn came forth to represent Radulovich, no attorney would take the young lieutenant's case. Sanborn and his co-counsel, Charles Lockwood, risked their careers to defend Radulovich in a military tribunal simply because they believed "it was the right thing to do."

Famed newsmen Edward R. Murrow and Fred W. Friendly devoted an entire "See It Now" program to the Radulovich case. On Nov. 24, 1953, Secretary of the Air Force Harold Talbott announced on nationwide television that Radulovich was no longer considered a security risk.

Sen. Sanborn presented Judge Sanborn and Radulovich with a Senate resolution honoring their courage, patriotism, and American spirit.

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Editor's note: Photos from the ceremony are available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Sanborn/Sanborn.htm>.